

**ESSENTIAL ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CARE.** Edited by F Wilson.  
(Pp x + 308, Illustrated. £8.75). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

ACCIDENT and Emergency Medicine is a relatively new but rapidly expanding specialty, and although many textbooks related to it have been published in recent years for doctors, the same has not occurred for nurses. This book, written by a team of doctors in Lancaster, covers a wide range of the emergencies and not so acute conditions seen in every casualty department, and the nurse is given very good guidance in how to manage the department not only efficiently, but compassionately.

Special emphasis has been placed on resuscitation and the chapters on the physiology of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and its relation to the restoration of blood volume and artificial ventilation are very well written.

Nurses who are on Accident and Emergency courses, and those who have been working in casualty departments for many years will find much to interest and stimulate them in this book, which has been written by doctors who have obviously had practical experience in emergency care.

MJT

**TESTING FOR TOXICITY.** Edited by JW Gorrod. (Pp xiv + 381, Illustrated. £18.00). London: Taylor and Francis, 1981.

THIS is a book for the specialist involved in examining potential drugs for their toxicity. In recent years there has been growing demands for safer drugs, which can only be achieved by more detailed toxicological testing in laboratory animals. Unfortunately, such testing has delayed and greatly increased the cost of development of new drugs. The contributions in this book were given at a Symposium held by the Pharmaceutical Society in 1980. The first two chapters describe the toxicity requirements of the United Kingdom, other countries in the European Economic Community, Canada, Japan and the United States of America. The remainder of the book (346 pages) describes the tests used to meet these toxicity requirements. However, many chapters are extremely well prepared and the testing procedures are critically appraised. This book will be of value to those interested in the toxicity testing of drugs.

RGS

**HOSPITAL OFFICE PRACTICE.** By Marion Collin. (Pp 133, Figs 34. £4.50)  
London: Baillière Tindall, 1981.

THIS book makes a somewhat ambitious attempt for its size to outline not only purely routine duties, but to cover many aspects of hospital administration and to define the place of modern office equipment in the hospital. It should be useful for those studying for specialised examination, but is perhaps less valuable for the day to day work of the hospital. It even includes in a page and a half advice on writing for medical journals. It is perhaps unfortunate that the style of journal and book references advised is not that of the Vancouver Agreement now rigidly adhered to by most British and many American journals.

**PROBLEMS IN CARDIOLOGY.** By CFP Wharton. (Pp 158, Illustrated. £7.95).  
Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

THIS reasonably priced book is designed primarily for general practitioners. It is essentially a practical guide for doctors in practice who have access to basic diagnostic equipment such as electrocardiography and chest radiography, but not the large array of modern invasive and non-invasive diagnostic techniques. It covers all the important problems in cardiology and ends with a useful chapter on changing trends in cardiological problems.

The book is practical and concise and there are useful paragraph headings in the margins. However, the use of lists, while making for simplicity, inevitably involves grouping the important with the less important. For example, in the list of side-effects of diuretics, hepatic coma and agranulocytosis are listed above vomiting and diarrhoea, while skin rashes come last in the list.

The most useful feature of the book is its clarity and the ease with which information can be found in it. This is facilitated by the absence of references. It is essentially a compilation of the author's personal experience after years in practice in a district general hospital. It can be recommended to all general practitioners.

MES